

wherein:

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C<sub>01</sub>  
R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>, which are the same or different, are chosen from the group consisting of: H, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkynyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, halogen, CN, azide, NRR', C<sub>1-8</sub> alkylamino, arylamino, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyloxy, aryloxy, COOR, CONRR', C(=O)R, wherein R and R', which are the same or different, are chosen from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, naphthyl-C<sub>1-8</sub>;

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C<sub>01</sub>  
R<sub>5</sub> is chosen from the group consisting of: H, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl-phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, COOR, CN, phenyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl-saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms; C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms-ribose phosphate; X is chosen from the group consisting of: O, C(=O)R, COOR, NO<sub>2</sub>, and CONNR', wherein R and R' are as above defined;

Q is chosen from the group consisting of single-bond, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkynyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, CO, CONR, and NR, where R is as above defined;

W is chosen from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-8</sub> alkynyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkoxy-C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl-C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, biphenyloxy, naphthyloxy, phenylamino, biphenylamino, naphthylamino, C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl-carbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, biphenylcarbonyl, naphthylcarbonyl, phenylcarboxyl, biphenylcarboxyl, naphthylcarboxyl, phenylcarboxamide, biphenylcarboxamide,

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naphthylcarboxyamide, halogen, CN,  $\text{NRR}'$ ,  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkylamino, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms wherein the groups alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, can be substituted; n is an integer comprised between 1 and 4; the symbol ~~-----~~ means that the corresponding bonds a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h and i are single or double bonds, with the proviso that when b or f are a double bond, the group  $\text{R}_5$  is absent; their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters.

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2. (amended) Benzo(c)quinolizine compounds of formula (1) according to Claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}_5 = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkyl-phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms,  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkyl-saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms; or a  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkyl-saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms-ribose-phosphate;

$\text{X} = \text{O}, \text{COOH};$

$\text{Q} = \text{single bond}, \text{CO}, \text{CONR}, \text{NR}$ , wherein R is chosen from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane, phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or aromatic heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, naphthyl- $\text{C}_{1-8}$ alkyl;

$\text{W} = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{Me}, \text{t-butyl}, \text{C}_{1-8}\text{alkoxy}, 2,5\text{-dimethylhexyl}, \text{trifluoromethyl}, 2,5\text{-(di-trifluoromethyl)-phenyl}, 4\text{-methyloxy-phenyl}, \text{phenyl}, \text{phenyl-}\text{C}_{1-8}\text{alkyl}, \text{C}_{1-8}\text{alkylcarbonyl}, \text{phenylcarbonyl};$

$n = 1 \text{ and } 2;$

$\text{R}_1, \text{R}_2, \text{R}_3, \text{R}_4 \text{ and } \text{R}_6 = \text{H}, \text{Me}, \text{CN}, \text{phenyl}, \text{COOR}, \text{CONRR}', \text{C(=O)R}$ , wherein R and R' are the same or different and are chosen from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkyl, cyclopropane, cyclobutane, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, cyclooctane, norbornane, canphane, adamantane,

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C-1  
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phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, saturated or unsaturated  
heterocycle containing one or more N atoms, naphthyl-C<sub>1-8</sub>.

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Kindly cancel claims 13-17 and add the following claims:

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18. (new) A method of inhibiting a 5 $\alpha$ -reductase enzyme which comprises administering to a host an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

19. (new) A method of treating acne which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.

20. (new) A method of treating baldness which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.

21. (new) A method of treating prostate cancer which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.

22. (new) A method of treating prostatic hypertrophy which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.

23. (new) A method of treating hirsutism in women which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1.

24. (new) A method of inhibiting steroid 5 $\alpha$ -reductase enzymes in plants which comprises contacting a plant with an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25. (new) An agricultural composition for regulating plant growth which comprises a compound of claim 1 and a carrier.